

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 (ISO) W
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R 291846Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7516

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 01316

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINT, RH, UK

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTER DOUGLAS-
HOME AND BISHOP MUZOREWA

REF: CAPETOWN 0061

1. WE DISCUSSED WITH MCCONVILLE OF FCO'S RHODESIAN
DEPARTMENT PRESS SPECULATION REGARDING POSSIBILITY OF
MEETING BETWEEN BISHOP MUZOREWA AND FOREIGN SECRETARY
SIR ALEC DOUGLAS-HOME IN BLANTYRE THIS WEEK-END.
MCCONVILLE SAID THAT THERE WAS NO TRUTH TO SPECULATION
IN BRITISH PRESS THAT MEETING HAD BEEN DELIBERATELY
ARRANGED. HE SAID, AS A MATTER OF FACT, HIS UNDER-
STANDING WAS THAT MUZOREWA WOULD LEAVE BLANTYRE BEFORE
THE FOREIGN SECRETARY ARRIVES LATER THIS WEEK. (THIS
CONTRADICTS INFORMATION GIVEN IN BLANTYRE'S 113 WHICH
INDICATES THAT MUZOREWA WILL BE THERE FROM JANUARY 28
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THROUGH FEBRUARY 6). WHEN ASKED WHAT SIR ALEC'S

REACTION WOULD BE IF HE DID HAPPEN TO FIND HIMSELF IN BLANTYRE AT THE SAME TIME AS MUZOREWA, MCCONVILLE SAID THE FOREIGN SECRETARY WOULD BE VERY HAPPY TO MEET WITH THE BISHOP WITH WHOM HE HAS NOT SPOKEN SINCE MUZOREWA'S TRIP TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN 1972. MCCONVILLE WAS CAREFUL TO LEAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT SIR ALEC WOULD NOT PRESS FOR A MEETING BUT WOULD BE PLEASED TO RESPOND TO AN INITIATIVE FROM THE BISHOP.

2. IN DISCUSSING THE POSSIBILITY OF A MEETING, MCCONVILLE EMPHASIZED THAT HMG IS AWARE OF THE DELICATE NATURE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN GOING ON BETWEEN THE BISHOP AND IAN SMITH, BOTH OF WHOM HAVE BEEN PLAYING THEIR CARDS CLOSE TO THEIR CHESTS. HE REITERATED THE LONG STANDING BRITISH POSITION* THAT IT WAS UP TO THE PARTIES INVOLVED TO RESOLVE THEIR MAJOR DIFFERENCES AND THAT THE BRITISH WOULD STEP IN ONLY IF THEY COULD BE OF SOME ASSISTANCE IN FACILITATING A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION. IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT THE FOREIGN SECRETARY DID NOT WISH TO PRESS FOR A MEETING WITH THE BISHOP BUT WOULD BE WILLING TO DISCUSS CURRENT SITUATION WITH HIM IF HE SO DESIRES.

3. ONE LONDON CORRESPONDENT REPORTED THAT THERE HAVE BEEN MOVES BEHIND THE SCENES TO SEE THAT BISHOP MUZOREWA WOULD ARRIVE IN BLANTYRE JUST AS SIR ALEC PASSES THROUGH. HE WENT ON TO SAY, HOWEVER, THAT THE FACT THAT THE SMITH REGIME HAS LEAKED THESE ARRANGEMENTS SUGGESTS THAT WHITE RHODESIANS HAVE DETECTED WHITEHALL'S COOLNESS TOWARDS THE NEW NEGOTIATIONS AND ARE TRYING TO EXERCISE A LITTLE LEVERAGE. MCCONVILLE SAID THAT THIS WAS BUNK.

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